

Key items & events

Student System Modules Go Live at Mayville and Valley City!

MaSU and VCSU successfully “went live,” and on time, on October 7th with the Campus Community Planning, Campus Portal, Recruiting, and Admissions modules.

During the August 22nd kickoff, Dr. Ellen Chaffee, President for both universities, said her “institutions were excited to begin this process and were committed, down to each person, to contribute in making this a successful implementation for the North Dakota University System and the state of North Dakota.”

According to Chancellor Larry Isaak, “this successful implementation demonstrates the high degree of commitment by those two pilot sites and the HECN and MAXIMUS staff who assisted the two institutions in meeting this aggressive timeline.” In a letter to the State Board of Higher Education, Chancellor’s Cabinet, various councils, and the ConnectND Executive Steering Committee and Project Team, Chancellor Isaak wrote: “What many of you may not realize is that for each of these individuals, the work that made these first implementations not only possible, but also successful, began last May with the official project kickoff. With this realization comes the recognition that without each of them this milestone would not have been achieved for the university system. Knowing this, we would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank each of them not only for the work they have done, but for the commitment they have shown to the university system. I know that many of them have set aside their personal lives to meet this timeline and for that we are grateful.”

Can’t make IVN meeting dates? An alternative—

The IVN sessions are captured and recorded through webstreaming. Use the [video archive](#) to view a missed session at a later date.

Timeline



What is the current status of the ConnectND project?

In their October 25, 2002, report, the Project Oversight team reported that:

- The overall project is on time and on budget;
- Project Deliverables are on-track;
- There are no scope issues or risks impeding the project at this time; and
- There are currently no risks impeding the project at this time.

How is ConnectND being implemented?

Under the leadership of a State Executive Steering Committee (co-chaired by Donna Thigpen, President, Bismarck State College and Rod Backman, Director, Office of Management and Budget) and with the help of our implementation partner, *MAXIMUS*, the project is being implemented using a five-phased approach:

1. Initiation – Complete
2. Design – Through 12/3/02
3. Development – Through 3/15/03
4. Migration – 10/7/02/02 to 5/15/03
5. Post Production – 10/7/02 to 8/29/03

When will ConnectND be implemented?

Implementation began at the Mayville State University and Valley City State University pilot sites with the *Campus Community Planning, Campus Portal, Recruiting, and Admissions* modules on October 7, 2002 (see condensed sidebar article *Student System Modules Go Live at Mayville and Valley City!*) For those two institutions, the following system components will all be live by April 2003: *Other Student Administration Modules, Financial System, and Human Resource Management System.*

The Office of Management and Budget, the state’s pilot site, is also scheduled to begin running certain systems by April 2003.

The entire statewide implementation for the remaining agencies and institutions is scheduled to be complete by the third quarter of 2004.

Has end-user training been scheduled?

End-user training is to be scheduled using a just-in-time approach.

November ConnectND IVN updates schedule

- Thursday, Nov. 14 (8-8:50 a.m.)
- Tuesday, Nov. 26 (9-9:50 a.m.)

These sessions are [web-streamed](#) via the ConnectND Website. Everyone is invited to attend the IVN update sessions. Specific locations are indicated on the [calendar](#).

PeopleSoft to Hold IVN Student and Faculty Demonstrations

On Tuesday, November 5th, PeopleSoft has scheduled two 30-minute demonstrations of its software. Each demonstration will be followed by a 20-minute Q & A session. The first session, beginning at 10 a.m. will be geared toward faculty. The second session, beginning at 11 a.m. will be geared toward students. Specific IVN locations are indicated on the [calendar](#). In addition, these sessions will be [web-steamed](#) via the ConnectND Website.

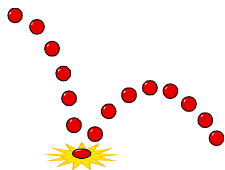
Words & acronyms

ERP—“Enterprise Resource Planning” System or “Enterprise Resource Package.” Essentially, it means an administrative software system that covers the entire enterprise – from students to employees to financial management. While our current administrative systems (commonly known as SAMIS or CICS) were developed long before “ERP” was even thought of, they are essentially our ERP today.

MAXIMUS—Founded in 1975, serves as the implementation partner on the Connect North Dakota Project, and will be responsible for developing an implementation and deployment plan that addresses the major business areas, key agency and campus participants and critical project completion dates.

PeopleSoft—Founded in the mid-1980s, this company builds applications on a client-server platform instead of using the traditional mainframe. This product should provide both the state and the university system with the ability to operate within a real-time environment on a system-wide basis.

Web-streamed—Recorded live and broadcast real-time via the Internet to those who cannot be at the event location.



About ConnectND

What is ConnectND?

The CONNECT ND project is the implementation of PeopleSoft's ERP system that will replace North Dakota's current administrative computer systems. The ERP system will serve as the administrative systems for the entire enterprise – from students to employees to financial management.

Who is involved in ConnectND?

All of North Dakota State Government, including the North Dakota University System, is involved in this project.

How is the ConnectND project organized?

The project has been organized by module (functional area) into three state groups (Financial, Human Resources Management System, and Technical) and four higher education groups (Financial, Human Resources Management System, Student Administration, and Technical).

Customization vs. Modification vs. Configuration

The Executive Steering Committee has prepared a document comparing customization, modification, and configuration.

- **Customization** involves the writing of computer code to add functionality to the PeopleSoft programs we are implementing. Customizations must be attached to PeopleSoft's programs in precisely the right place to work properly with the internal operation of those programs.
- **Modification** involves altering the computer code that is provided by PeopleSoft's programs and changing the way they operate. As with customizations, modifications must be attached to PeopleSoft's programs in precisely the right place to work properly with the internal operation of those programs.
- **Configuration** involves setting up the PeopleSoft system – creating tables of data, adding values or setting options that are available in the programs. Items that are configured are designed to operate without change when vendor updates are applied. If changes or tests are required it will be when vendor programs are upgraded to the next version. For complicated or widespread changes vendors usually provide conversion programs, which should reduce our burden considerably.

This document also discusses the effects these three methods have on system flexibility.

Payroll Schedule

As reported last month, following best practices; resulting in a more accurate payroll, paycheck, and pay stub, the ConnectND Higher Education Payroll Team decided that the university system should pay all employees (both hourly and salaried) semi-monthly, with a lag. The Executive Steering Committee voted to support this decision, but asked that the lag be reduced to the shortest amount possible. This was followed by Chancellor's Cabinet review on September 18 and October 16. In addressing the Steering Committee's request, the Payroll Module Lead determined that 8 days was the shortest time possible which would still provide for an accurate payroll. However, to accommodate this shorter lag-period, you will be paid on the 23rd of the month for work done from the 1st to 15th, and on the 8th of the following month for work done from the 16th to 31st. The Executive Steering Committee has prepared a [Question/Answer](#) document related to this decision.

Links mentioned

- **Calendar:** www.nodak.edu/connectnd/index.php?module=PostCalendar
- **Comparing customization, modification, and configuration**
http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/connectnd/repository/design/Customize_or_Configure.pdf
- **Payroll Schedule Q&A:**
http://www.nodak.edu/connectnd/repository/development/payroll_Q&A.pdf
- **Video archive:**
<http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/connectndmodules.php?op=modload&name=Downloads&file=index>
- **Web-streamed:**
<http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/connectndmodules.php?op=modload&name=Downloads&file=index>



More information, questions or comments: www.nodak.edu/connectnd
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